

# Eastern Mud Turtle

## Eastern Mud Turtle - Pl. 2

*(Kinosternon subrubrum subrubrum)*

**Identification:** 3" - 4 7/8". The smooth carapace varies from olive-brown to black, and is somewhat flatter than that of the Common Musk Turtle. The large plastron has two key features: (1) it is double-hinged, and (2) the pectoral scutes (in front of the anterior hinge) are triangular. The plastron is yellow to brown; it may be unmarked or may have dark brown or black markings. The head has yellow spots or mottling; occasional individuals may have yellow streaks.

**Where to find them:** The Eastern Mud Turtle prefers muddy bottoms of shallow bodies of water that are still or slow-moving, such as ponds, ditches, and marshes; it may be found at times on dry land. This species of Mud Turtle can tolerate brackish water and may be found in or near salt marshes and on coastal islands.

**When to find them:** April through October.

**Range:** All of Southern Region and Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, and Middlesex counties in Northern Region. Historically occurred in Passaic, Morris, Essex, Bergen, Hudson, and Union Counties.

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### Key Features

- Carapace: domed, smooth, and olive-brown to black.
- Plastron: large and double hinged.



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Excerpt from: Schwartz, V. & D. Golden, "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey". New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife 2002.

Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/products.htm>